

NSC REFERRAL NOT REQUIRED

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11/16/63
CIA
Mrs. Kennedy 9/1/63
I share the
general public
are in favor
of withdrawing from
So. Vietnam
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JEB.

JOS. E. BIALLAS



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Chronicle
9/11/63
Royce Brier

Another Lulu For the CIA?

MONDAY an amazing South Vietnam news story appeared in the New York Times. That it has not been denied, categorically and publicly, in Washington, makes it appear substantially true.

James Reston did wring denials from unnamed "officials" in Washington, but said the denials were "private" and not "public."

The story, datelined Manila, says this: Central Intelligence Agency is now and has for some time been paying \$250,000 monthly for "salary and upkeep" of Colonel Le Quang Tung's "Special Forces." These are American-trained troops which participated in the Buddhist pagoda raids August 21.



If this story is true, the troops were in the direct pay of the American taxpayer when they made the raids, which were an insane, smashing piece of vandalism and religious persecution.

★ ★ ★

THE MANILA STORY says the raids not only dismayed the general military and civilian American community in Saigon but gave pause to the CIA operatives. As funds have been paid the first of the month, the story says, CIA called a meeting August 26, at which operatives were against a September 1 payment. But the following day they were assembled and told: "Gentlemen, it's business as usual."

The story said: "One source said the decision to continue aid (to Tung) was basically made in Washington."

On August 26 some CIA operatives were reported to have objected the Special Forces were trained to fight Viet Cong communist guerrillas, not as a secret militia to suppress Vietnamese at the behest of Ngo Dinh Nhu, strongarm brother of President Diem. Tung is reported to be a puppet of Ngo Dinh Nhu.

★ ★ ★

THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY has been confused over the internal blowup. So was Washington, which tried to absolve the army for the raids and was kicked in the teeth for its pains. This confusion apparently extended to the CIA; the Manila story says the raids came as a "surprise" to the CIA chief (unnamed) in Saigon. Involvement of Tung's militia in the raids was mostly dug out by newspapermen covering Saigon.

Clearly, Washington won't voluntarily admit anything. Reston writes of the Administration "privately annoyed but publicly silent" about the CIA story. He noted a growing pressure on Congress to cut off all aid to the Diem-Nhu mob, which is collecting at the rate of \$500 million this year.

Funds of the CIA spy outfit are secret—even Congress can't discover how they are disbursed. Perhaps as amazing as the CIA story is that the American people will stand for such shabby international action. Incidentally, the Diem-Nhu soldier mob raided high schools this week and arrested 800 or more kids.

September 11, 1963

The Question Man

Are You Happy?

STANTON DELAPLANE

Postcard

From Frederikstad

Island in the Sun

ST. CROIX is the largest of the American Virgin Islands and the only one that still raises sugar cane. St. Thomas and St. John have found it more profitable to raise tourist prices.

"That's sugar cane," said my taxi driver. "You don't see sugar cane on those other islands."



My driver is a lady. She is a schoolteacher in the winter. In the summer she drives tourist taxi. She said all tourists are interested in sugar cane and she was proud that St. Croix still raises it.

★ ★ ★
THE SCHOOL teacher-driver meets all the planes. St. Croix has some flat land and therefore is able to land two Pan American jets a week—direct flights from New York.

"Can't land those jets on St. Thomas," she said. "If he tries to land on St. Thomas, he runs right into those hills—smash! Only little planes like Caribair land at St. Thomas. No planes AT all land on St. John."

"You know what tourists like to see?"

"What do they like to see?" I asked.

"First thing we drive from the airport, the man says, 'What all that green grass is?' You say to him, 'That sugar cane.' He says, 'Is THAT so? I never see sugar cane before.' That SUGAR cane," he says to his wife.

"Then his wife says, 'Where is good place to shop?'"

"She doesn't CARE about sugar cane. Only wants to go to free-port shop."

★ ★ ★
TO MEET these shopping-sugary tourists, a number of people are opening hotels all over these green islands. I gather that hotel business is not as easy as it looks. Mr. Hilton, who does know hotel business, has taken over a couple of plush operations that simply weren't making it. The Arawak at Ochos Pios in Jamaica now flies Conrad Hilton's flag. And the Dorado at Puerto Rico is now the Dorado Hilton.

★ ★ ★
SAID THE schoolteacher-taxi driver: "Sometime you get the tourist man he says to me, 'What that wasp doing in the car?' Plenty wasps right now."

"So I say to him, 'That we call a Jack Spaniard.' That is what we CALL wasps in these islands. You hear that before?"

"I never heard it before," I said.

"Now you hear about it, you can tell people at your HOTEL," she said. "They think you smart. They think you come from islands only you wrong color. Must be black like me then they know for SURE you island person."

"This town Frederiksted is where they free all slaves. Those Danes THEY make slaves free. If they don't do it I be slave today, maybe. They make everybody free 1848."

★ ★ ★
THOSE BIG JET come to airport and I drive the taxi. I tell the Jack Spaniard and sugar cane.

"Right away the woman go into shop."



*Pres. J. F. Kennedy
Washington D.C.*

105. E. BIALLAS



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